

Letters From Soldiers

Raymond Loomis, of this city, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fannie Loomis, is in the U. S. Army, stationed in the Panama Canal. The following letters from him of his trip across the Gulf of Mexico from New Orleans to Colon:

Mother:

NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 8, 1917. — A few lines to tell you we arrived last night. There was ice an inch thick when we left and here the weather is in bloom, and everyone is in the shade. We are here at Naval Training Station but soon for Panama. It seems strange to see the flowers in bloom and so many palms as they have here. If I get to town I would send you a letter. Wish you could be here to see me. I had heard you had found people from every part of the world, and from appearances I think that is right. Write soon and tell me how you are. Your son, RAYMOND LOOMIS.

Mother:

BOARD SHIP, Nov. 9th (Fri.). — Don't know when I will get home, but will write while I am here. We left New Orleans yesterday about 4 p. m. and reached the Gulf of Mexico last night. We are on the Tallahassee at Colon I am at present we are first-class passengers and so, naturally having a trip. I'm afraid it will be hard to work after this luxury. It is so comfortable, but beginning to get warm and some are hunting the water.

There are 78 sailors on board and I am the only one with a horse. There are five fellows that were in the company at the Great Lakes and the rest are all from the Great Lakes, except three who joined us at Panama.

MONDAY — So far we have had a trip. It was considerably rough on Lake Erie one night last winter when I was on the ship. Yesterday about noon we passed Colon and could see the San Antonio Light.

There are hundreds of flying fish yesterday. They are eight or ten inches long and look like a swallow flying over the water. Most of them only about three or four rods, and some about fifteen or twenty fly in a flock. We will pass Swan Island today. It was the first land we saw; only about one ship. We were allowed on shore for an hour yesterday to see the compass and steering apparatus.

TUESDAY — We just passed Providence Island, the second night of land. The weather is quite rough and hilly on one side and they say there are plantations on the other side and about 200 inhabitants, mostly negroes.

Tomorrow we are supposed to reach New York and I suppose we will go on a ship. It is terribly warm today, and it is raining.

WEDNESDAY — Everyone is getting ready to land at Colon. They say it will be there before noon. The ship yesterday did not last long and it was a disappointment. We certainly have had a trip so far. Hope we can get away before the ship leaves for Panama. Want to take a dip in the water. Lovingly, RAYMOND LOOMIS.

Mother:

COLON, Panama. — We landed yesterday noon and some of us went to our ships immediately and have not been assigned to any ship. Five firemen and six seamen went on the Lawrence; the one I am on and the rest are divided up on several different ones. None of the boys



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in my company I was in at the Great Lakes are on my ship. I got shore leave last night and also tonight. This morning we went out on torpedo practice.

Colon is a queer city with its mixture of negroes, Spanish and Indians. The streets and alleys are kept clean by Uncle Sam as well as all the buildings I have seen, are nice to look at from the outside. I want to get some time in the day time and look around; all I have seen so far is the business part and it is all right.

There is an Army and Navy Club here and a Y. M. C. A. I am writing this from the Club. There is a big dance here tonight for the Sailors and Soldiers. I see we can send letters here for two cents, while you in the States have to pay three cents. Every one here is sociable and there are a few Americans.

There are lots of coconut trees and palms, and I am anxious to get out in the country to see what that is like. There are some hills off the coast and they sure do look nice.

Well, I will close. Will write more soon and try to get some news. Your son, RAYMOND LOOMIS.

Russell Cressley, son of Mason Cressley, of this city, writes the following interesting letter to his father in this city:

Dear Dad:

We're getting along pretty well now and ought to go over soon, comparatively speaking. We must vacate Fort Sill before January 5th to make room for the second draft, so when that time comes we will either go to some coast town or to France. Tomorrow we go out to dig trenches for practice. March six miles and sixteen back. As for me, I'm going to get out of it if I can, for I've been working inside for the past two weeks and therefore am rather soft for a six mile grind and pick and shovels afterwards.

I am taking out \$10,000 worth of insurance this month under the Government law, and making it payable to you and to Helen in equal amount — \$5,000 each. It can be changed at any time so far as the beneficiaries are concerned. I would take more but I can't get it.

Well, Dad, be good and keep your health vigorous. Work as hard as you want to and loaf a lot, because you're entitled to a loaf now and then. Let me hear from you soon and give me your regards to Johnny Gamble. Tell him I'll write him before long. Please tell Mrs. C. I think of her quite often and hope she is getting along nicely and enjoying good health.

Lots of love and good wishes from RUSSELL CRESSLEY, Idco. Co., 129 th E. A.

R. M. White & Son, Mexico, Mo. BOSTON, Mass., Nov. 12, 1917. — Dear Friends: We are being treated fine here and the hospitality of the New England people is something we will never forget. Powell, Barnes, McClinck, Mildred and myself were sent here from Newport; Eubank was sent to Norfolk and Rockwell, Williams, Plunkett and Watts were left in Newport. We are aboard a large receiving ship at the Commonwealth Pier, which is the largest in the world. After the strenuous training at Newport, everything comes easy here and I hope we stay awhile. Although they are sending them out every day, some on transports and some on battleships; our turn may come any time and we are all ready to go. Boston is a large city with many theatres, pretty girls and subways. You can ride around all under the city and get lost very easily in the narrow streets that run every direction. We get liberty every other night and 48 hours every other Saturday which means we can go ashore Saturday morning and not return until Monday morning.

The officers are not so strict as in Newport and the regulations much better; they all say the training station is the hardest part of a sailor's career. There are about 1500 men on the ship and the working hours very short. As the work can be done in quick time with so many men, our drilling is light, only enough to keep us in trim. We have plenty of amusements on the ships, the Y. M. C. A. keeps us in stationery, reading rooms, entertainments and many others too numerous to mention. They have a theatre, pool room and billiard tables, bowling alleys and gymnasium, all free to the sailors; the shows in town send out performers to entertain the boys, so we are well taken care of in every way. Every Sunday the wealthy people of Boston come out in their swell cars and take some of the boys to their homes for dinner and a ride around Boston. Yesterday a fellow from St. Louis and myself were sent to the home of a rich Englishman in Brookline, the fashionable section, and the dinner we sat down to was something wonderful; we hardly knew how to act. His wife was very interested in us as she called us Westerners, while she came from London. After dinner they drove out to the historical battle ground of Lexington and Concord, all along the Paul Revere road and through the picturesque hills of Massachusetts, which affords some beautiful scenery. I sure appreciated it and only hope I will be sent out again soon. You can tell the folks at home that the Boston people are sure patriots and doing everything they can to entertain the sailors stationed here. I hope the other boys from Mexico are enjoying themselves as we are. If any of them, who are still at home,

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Men's Dress Shoes Black and Tan \$3 to \$9 the Pair House Slippers, Tan and Black leather \$2.50 to \$3 Pair Gray and Black felt \$1.25 to \$2 Pair	School Shoes For Boys and Girls Good, stout leather shoes that will wear From \$1.50 to \$4.00 the Pair	Orthopraxic Shoes If your feet hurt come in and let our Orthopraxic Expert examine your feet and tell you how to get relief.

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contemplate joining the navy, just tell them for me they will never regret it. We only hope to have the Kaiser's scalp by next spring, so we can come home for a visit. I want to serve my four years even if the war should end, as it is an interesting, healthy life. Last, but by no means least, is our football team; we hopped on the subway cars last week and in 8 minutes were out to the Howard Stadium, where the Navy beat the Army 28 to 0. It was some game and some crowd, about 25,000. Will close for this time with best regards to the Mexico boys.

From T. Y. G. ROBERTS, Receiving Ship, Commonwealth Pier, Div. 6, Sec. 2, Boston, Mass.

Ernest Garrett, Jr., of this city, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Garrett, writes the Ledger the following letter from France:

Dear Friend Mitchell:

SOMEWHERE IN FRANCE, October 29, 1917. — Well, I received the Weekly paper that you folks sent to me and certainly enjoyed reading it. I see that a few boys have already left for training camps. It will make fine men out of them.

I am enjoying life in France, but think they made a big mistake calling this country "Sunny France" as it has rained nearly all the time since we have been here. It has snowed several times this month. I guess the papers are full of the war talk about the Americans on the front. We had a fine trip on the boat coming over from the States; was quite a number of days on the boat. Had no trouble at all with the enemy. I could write you a long letter if I were only allowed to do so, but all the mail is censored here before it leaves the post. There is a boy from around a little town near Mexico in my regiment. We get together and talk about people in GOOD OLD MEXICO that keeps us from getting lonesome. Well, I think I have written a long letter for this time. Hoping all are well and enjoying life. Yours truly, ERNEST GARRETT, Battery D, 6th Field Artillery, A. M. E. F., via New York.

Mrs. Ernest Garrett received a letter from her son this week. He stated he was weighing 185 pounds and enjoying splendid health. In the letter he told his mother he was wishing someone would send him a fruit cake. His mother sent him such a gift several weeks ago, but evidently it had not reached him when the letter was written.

Arthur J. Snedeker, of Laddonia, formerly a student in McMillan High School, is "Somewhere in France" with the U. S. troops. The following is from a recent letter to his mother:

"And since you mention the temptations to a soldier in this country, I can't refrain from saying that I know of at least two soldiers that are a long ways from where one is tempted even were we willing to be led. Civilization is a thing of the past in this immediate vicinity. And a soldier's uniform is worn by every soul I have seen in the last month; and will more

and other celebrities. Numbers of tomb stones dated 1690, and stood where Washington took command of the American Army in 1775. Boston is a beautiful city but hard to get around in; I am going to see lots of it while here; only wish you all could be here to enjoy it with me.

I believe the subway is the most interesting thing to me as it was my first ride in one and they have an excellent system here. Its five cents to ride from Harvard Square in Cambridge to the heart of Boston.

I am certainly lucky to have made the change I did and land here. I'm proud in a way and you can tell them all about it. Your devoted son, HERBERT PLUNKETT.

I hope I don't wake up.

Frank Mathews, who visited Rodes Jesse, in this city, quite a number of times while they were room-mates at Missouri University, was killed Monday at Fort Worth, Texas, where he was in training for the Royal Flyers Corps of the British Army. This news was received here in a telegram Tuesday morning.

Mr. Mathews had many friends here. He was just 21 years old and expected to leave for France and active service the first of the year. His course of instruction was complete with the exception of gunnery and wireless telegraphy. The details of his death have not been learned but it occurred while he was flying.

Young Mathews is a St. Louis boy. Later advices state he was killed instantly when his machine fell 2500 feet.

CROSSLEY SAYS COAL PROFITS MUST BE CUT

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Nov. 27. — Charging that retail coal dealers in some localities are attempting to reap excessive profits, State Fuel Administrator Wallace Crossley last night declared that the people of Missouri are not going to be imposed on if he could prevent it.

He said he hoped the local fuel committees would not be fooled by the "petty extortions" of some dealers in piling up the cost of coal to the consumer.

His interview followed the action of the Missouri Public Service Commission requiring coal operators and dealers to eliminate the re-consignment of coal cars.

Additional Y. M. C. A. Subscriptions:

The following parties, who were overlooked by the canvassing committee, have voluntarily subscribed for the Y. M. C. A. Fund:

McPheters Bros. \$10.00
Dr J G Moore \$10.00
Elna Harrison \$2.00
Harry G Stocks \$5.00
Dr G F Tolson and family \$5.00
Mrs and Mrs S P Guthrie \$5.00
Mrs E D Graham \$5.00
Ralph Dobyns \$5.00
Mrs L H Moore \$5.00
Dr W H Hickman \$1.50
Mrs J S Snidow \$1.50
R C Paul \$1.00
Mrs and Mrs J R McCord \$1.00
Mrs J F McWilliams \$1.00
Mrs E H Carter \$1.00
Mrs E A Williams \$1.00
Miss Edna Armstrong \$1.00
Mrs. Armstrong \$1.00

Ruse Saves Life

By feigning death, after he had been kidnapped and severely beaten by a mob of non-union men at Moberly, Mo., Sunday night, Percy E. Turner, an organizer for the United Shoe Workers' Union, 3152a Arsenal street, St. Louis, frightened his captors away. He was rescued by policemen. Five of his alleged captors were arrested and are being held at Moberly.

According to reports, Turner had been warned to stay away from Moberly, where there had been ill feeling between union and non-union men.

Mrs. Fant Injured

The many friends of Mrs. G. W. Fant will regret to learn she fell down the basement steps of her home Saturday and suffered a fractured left leg. Her condition is as well as could be expected.

Circuit Court Notes

Divorces were granted Tuesday to Mary G. Vasher from John Samuel Vasher, and Dorothy Mildred Hansel from John Henry Hansel.

Short School Holidays

It is quite likely the local public schools will have short Christmas holidays. The State Food Administration is asking that only a few days Christmas be given students in order that the summer holidays may start sooner and the young people be placed at gardening as early as possible.

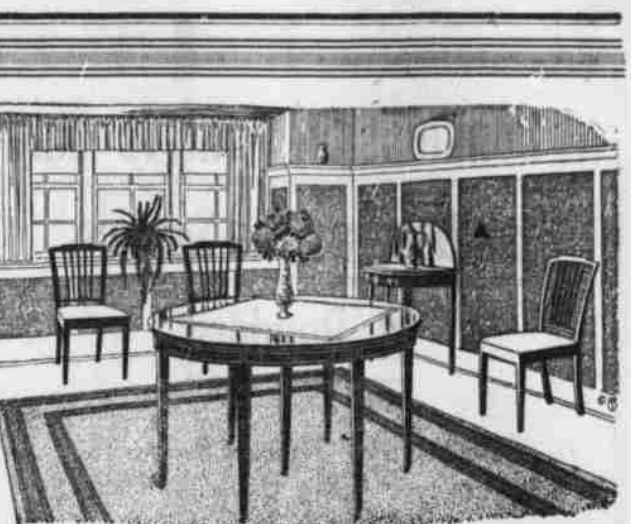
Robert West Dead

Robert West, who formerly lived northwest of Mexico died at Blackfoot, Idaho this week, at the age of sixty-seven. He was a brother in law of Mrs. Ida Robinson, of Mexico.

Many Friends in Audrain county extend sincere sympathy to the bereaved family.

Superfluous Advice

Freight trains should never forget to run back and forth at railroad crossings four or five times and block the tracks so as to show the automobile drivers they don't own the earth. — From the Meriden Journal.



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Our suggestion for Holiday gifts is a visit to our Furniture Department.

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LITTLEBY WOMEN GIVE ONE DAY'S EGG MONEY TO RED CROSS	
\$41.50 Was Realized From Unique Plan of Audrain County Women to Raise War Funds	
Mrs R D Sims	50c
Mrs H F Duggee	50c
Mrs Eugene Dye	50c
Mrs Francis Teague	50c
Mrs D Cauthorn	50c
Mrs George Green	50c
Mrs Hollingsworth	50c
Mrs W E Hale	45c
Mrs Erdel	35c
Mrs T W Fegan	25c
Mrs E S Reed	25c
Mrs T W Crawford	25c
Mrs Beckley	25c
Mrs Annie Cauthorn	25c

Mexico Ledger Appreciated

Dear Mr. White:

McCALL, Idaho, Nov. 22, 1917. — We are enclosing \$5, for which please extend our subscription to the Ledger. We have no intention of being without our good home paper, we enjoy so much. We are having delightful weather here now, no snow. Regards to all our friends. Success to you and yours. Respectfully, O. C. BARNES.

\$90,000 Rock Roads Planned

WELLSVILLE, Mo., Nov. 27. — A road meeting was held in Montgomery yesterday for the purpose of bringing before the people of the township reasons why they should vote for bonding the district for \$45,000 to build permanent rock roads over the district. A. C. McKibben, Secretary of the State Highway Commission, and A. W. Graham, State Highway Engineer, spoke. The bond election will be held December 1st. If the district votes the bonds it will receive State aid to the amount of \$45,000.

Dr. J. C. Blain, of Wellsville, was in this city Tuesday. He reports Mrs. Blain, who was injured recently in a motor accident, as recovering rapidly.

Watch For Small Leaks

If you stop the small leaks in your purse, the little foolish expenditures, and place this money in a savings account which bears interest, the result will surprise you.

You will discover that what seemed a small extravagance was really a large extravagance.

You cannot afford to allow the little leaks to continue.

One dollar starts an interest-bearing savings account with us.

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Sam Sharp and Walker Burns, Assistant Cashiers
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